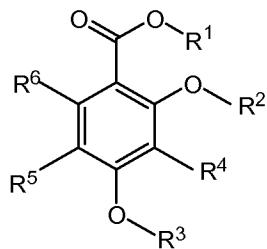


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound of general formula I:



I

wherein:

R¹ represents hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R² represents hydrogen or -C(=O)R⁷;

R³ represents C₁₋₅ fluoroalkyl, C₂₋₅ fluoroalkenyl or C₂₋₅ fluoroalkynyl;

R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, nitro, -NR⁸R⁹, -S(O)_xR¹⁰ or -C(=O)R¹¹;

R⁷ and R¹⁰ independently represent C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R⁸, R⁹ and R¹¹ independently represent hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl; and

x represents 0, 1 or 2;

with the proviso that when R¹ represents methyl, R² represents hydrogen, R³ represents 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethyl and R⁴ and R⁵ represent hydrogen then R⁶ cannot be hydroxy, and with the further proviso that when R¹ represents

hydrogen, R² represents hydrogen and R³ represents 3-fluoropropyl then R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ cannot represent simultaneously fluoro; or a salt thereof.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ represent hydrogen.
3. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R³ represents C₁₋₅ fluoroalkyl.
4. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R³ represents C₁₋₃ fluoroalkyl, C₂₋₃ fluoroalkenyl or C₂₋₃ fluoroalkynyl.
5. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R³ represents C₁₋₃ fluoroalkyl.
6. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R³ represents 2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropyl.
7. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R¹ represents hydrogen.
8. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R² represents hydrogen or acetyl.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

methyl 2-hydroxy-4-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropoxy)benzoate;
methyl 2-hydroxy-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)benzoate;
methyl 2-hydroxy-4-(2,2,3,3-tetrafluoropropoxy)benzoate;
methyl 2-hydroxy-4-(2-fluoroethoxy)benzoate;

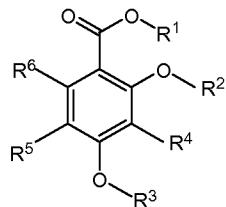
methyl 4-(2,2-difluoroethoxy)-2-hydroxybenzoate;
2-hydroxy-4-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropoxy)benzoic acid;
2-hydroxy-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)benzoic acid;
2-hydroxy-4-(2,2,3,3-tetrafluoropropoxy)benzoic acid;
2-hydroxy-4-(2-fluoroethoxy)benzoic acid;
4-(2,2-difluoroethoxy)-2-hydroxybenzoic acid;
2-acetoxy-4-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropoxy)benzoic acid; and
2-acetoxy-4-(2-fluoroethoxy)benzoic acid;
and a salt thereof.

10. (Previously Presented) 2-Hydroxy-4-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropoxy)benzoic acid or a salt thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) 2-Acetoxy-4-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropoxy)benzoic acid or a salt thereof.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an effective amount of a compound of formula I



I

wherein:

R¹ represents hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R² represents hydrogen or -C(=O)R⁷;

R³ represents C₁₋₅ fluoroalkyl, C₂₋₅ fluoroalkenyl or C₂₋₅ fluoroalkynyl;

R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, nitro, -NR⁸R⁹, -S(O)_xR¹⁰ or -C(=O)R¹¹;

R⁷ and R¹⁰ independently represent C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R⁸, R⁹ and R¹¹ independently represent hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl; and

x represents 0, 1 or 2;

with the proviso that when R¹ and R² each represents hydrogen, and R³ represents 3-fluorophenyl, then R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ simultaneously cannot represent fluoro;

and with the further proviso that when R¹ represents methyl, R² represents hydrogen, R³ represents 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethyl and R⁴ and R⁵ represent hydrogen then R⁶ cannot be hydroxy,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing immune diseases which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof.

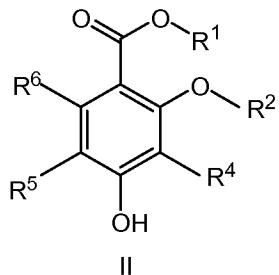
20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19 wherein the immune disease is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, lichen planus, dermatomyositis, scleroderma, erythema

multiforme, urticaria, pemphigus, inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis, gouty arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, juvenile arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, multiple sclerosis diabetes, transplant rejection, graft-versus-host disease, lupus erythematosus, vasculitis, Sjögren's syndrome, Guillain-Barre syndrome, glomerulonephritis, allergic rhinitis, asthma, fibrosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and neoplasias with proliferation of immune cells.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing cancer which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof.

22. (Withdrawn) Process for preparing a compound of claim 1 which comprises

(a) reacting a phenol of formula II

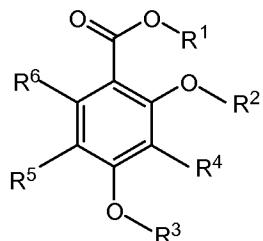


wherein R¹, R², R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ have the meaning described above, with an alkylating agent of formula G-R³ (III), wherein R³ has the meaning described above and G represents a leaving group; or

(b) converting a compound of formula I into another compound of formula I; and

(c) optionally, after the above steps and when R¹ and/or R² represent hydrogen, reacting a compound of formula I with a base, to obtain the corresponding addition salt.

23. (Previously presented) A compound of general formula I:



wherein:

R¹ represents hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R² represents hydrogen or -C(=O)R⁷;

R³ represents C₁₋₅ fluoroalkyl, C₂₋₅ fluoroalkenyl or C₂₋₅ fluoroalkynyl;

R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, nitro, -NR⁸R⁹, -S(O)_xR¹⁰ or -C(=O)R¹¹;

R⁷ and R¹⁰ independently represent C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R⁸, R⁹ and R¹¹ independently represent hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl; and

x represents 0, 1 or 2;

with the proviso that when R¹ represents methyl, R² represents hydrogen, R³ represents 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethyl and R⁴ and R⁵ represent hydrogen then R⁶ cannot be hydroxy, and with the further proviso that when R¹ represents

hydrogen, R² represents hydrogen and R³ represents 3-fluoropropyl then R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ cannot represent simultaneously fluoro.

24. (Previously presented) 2-Hydroxy-4-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropoxy)benzoic acid.